

## Press Release

**Hamburg, 29/11/2007**

### **kulturreich's new gallery space opens its exhibition program introducing the new work *Star shots 2* from Berlin-based artist Kathrin Günter on December 5<sup>th</sup> 2007**

With the inauguration of the new gallery space in Wexstrasse, kulturreich presents the premiere of Kathrin Günter's new photographic series *Star shots 2*, from December 6<sup>th</sup> 2007 until February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008.

Focusing on young female media stars, the artist's new work reveals the pseudo scandal beneath the alleged perfect appearance of celebrities within paparazzi photography. Widely documented and broadcasted *disasters*, such as Kate Moss' affection for cocaine or Britney Spears' inability to successfully park her car, provoke Kathrin Günter to stage her version of these scenes in front of her own camera.

*Star shots 2 visualises the crack in the mask, which, seductively glittering, slowly gives way under the pressure of constant observation and the inevitably destructive desire of self in-scene-ing, to eventually break open, scattering the myriad alleged scandals and tragedies, which the hungry public eye is waiting for day after day: The blank bareness in all its eerie, dazzling splinters.*

[Kathrin Günter, commenting on her work]

The new work emphasises the absurdity on which the female star cult is based and on the damaging consequences that a daily in-scene-ing can extend to.

In 2000 Günter drew attention to one aspect of this star crash, with her work *Star shots*, awarded by the renowned BFF prize as one of the best degree shows of German universities.

Leaving behind the easy-to-identify aesthetics of former mainstream paparazzi photography which the previous series adopted, the protagonists, both in front of and behind the camera, come out of their protective camouflage to carefully assist each other in finally choosing and publishing the most suitable moment.

Kathrin Günter (\*1971) studied photography at the University for Applied Sciences in Hamburg. After graduating in 1999, she escaped the Northern climate and worked five years as a photo assistant in Barcelona. Her work has been exhibited at Munich gallery Andreas Grimm, Feinkunst Krüger and gallery 11 in Hamburg, at the Goethe Institute in New York, amongst many others.

Background to the opening of kulturreich:

After the kulturreich Salon has already opened its doors to the public with a weekly series of events on Thursday evenings, the gallery will be finally inaugurated this 5<sup>th</sup> of December with the vernissage of *Star shots 2*.

Cultural activities in the form of two connected spaces, kulturreich gallery on one side and the kulturreich salon on the other, is part of the concept. kulturreich, as an agency for art and

communication, builds bridges between art and economy through its services for artists and enterprise.  
(Holder: Ulrike Klug)

Exhibition overview:

kulturreich gallery: Star shots 2 photographs of Kathrin Günter, vernissage: Wednesday, 05/12 7 pm

exhibition dates: Thursday, 06/12/2007 saturday 02/02/2008

opening hours: Monday Friday, 10am 8pm, Thursday, 10 am 10 pm, Saturdays 10 am 6pm

kulturreich Salon talk: Thursday, 06/12 7pm: Ingo Taubhorn, Curator Haus der Fotografie and Kathrin Günter

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